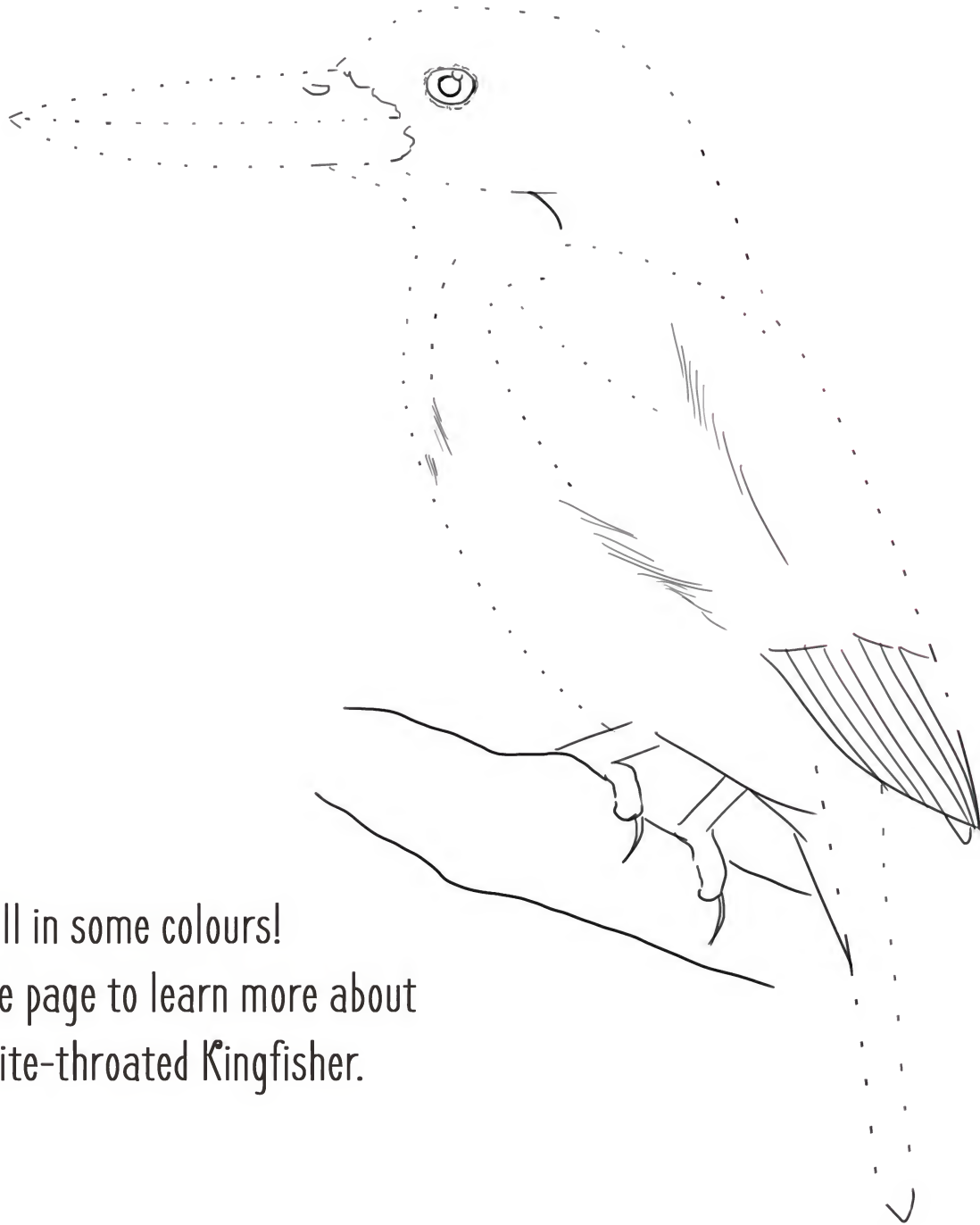


# Let your pencil follow the path...



**nature  
conservation  
foundation**



...and fill in some colours!  
Turn the page to learn more about  
the White-throated Kingfisher.

# Answer the questions below:

Q) Which phrase best describes its beak?

- ☐ Thin and elongated
- ☐ Hooked
- ☐ Thick, long and pointed

Q) What would it choose to eat?

- ☐ Fruits and berries
- ☐ Dead and decaying animals
- ☐ Insects, worms and fish

Q) How do you think its feet are?

- ☐ Short and stubby (to perch on branches)
- ☐ Webbed (to wade in water)
- ☐ Extremely elongated (to walk on marshy ground)

Q) Have you seen this bird before?

- ☐ Yes, I saw it \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ No

Q) Draw the shape of its beak here:



White-throated Kingfisher  
*Halcyon smyrnensis*

# White-throated Kingfisher

Kingfishers are brightly coloured birds with a large head, a long, sharp and thick bill, short legs, and a stubby tail.

The White-throated Kingfisher is a large kingfisher. It measures almost a foot in length (from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail)!

Try this out: Measure your hand from the elbow to fingertips. How long is it? Find out how many inches or centimeters a foot is.



This kingfisher species is mostly dark chocolate-brown in colour with bright blue wings and a white patch on its throat and breast. While most kingfishers are described purely as water-birds living mainly on fish, the White-throated Kingfisher breaks the stereotype by feeding on insects, rodents, small reptiles and amphibians. Hence, it is often seen away from water as well.



You can spot these kingfishers perched on poles, fences and telephone wires near wetlands, gardens, parks and agricultural fields.

The call of this bird sounds like a loud, long cackle: chake-ake-ake-ake-ake.

Have you seen this bird near your home or school? What colours did you observe? What was it doing?



Listen carefully to a kingfisher's call. Can you cackle like this bird? Note down what times of the day you hear it call.

White-throated Kingfishers breed when the rainy season begins, and you can hear their noisy calls very often during this time.



Art: Smita Kaushik

These kingfishers nest in deep tunnels (almost 50 cm in depth!) in mud walls and earth banks. Both males and females build the nest by digging tunnels in a mud wall with their large, sharp bills.

These birds often lay 4-7 eggs at a time. The eggs hatch in about three weeks and both parents take turns to feed and care for their young.